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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 AMMAN 008071

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/10/2013

TAGS: [PREL](#) [MOPS](#) [PGOV](#) [IZ](#) [JO](#)

SUBJECT: IRAQI POLICE TRAINING CENTER IN JORDAN SPUTTERS TO LIFE

Classified By: CDA David Hale for reasons 1.5 (b) (d)

Summary

11. (C) The new Iraqi police training center in Jordan recently received its first class of approximately 500 trainees. The center ultimately plans to provide basic police training to 32,000 Iraqi recruits. The GOJ and the training staff, some of whom trained police in Kosovo, understand the importance of this effort to future stability in Iraq. The international response has been positive, with six countries committing trainers and another eight expressing interest. END SUMMARY

POLICE TRAINING CENTER BLOOMS IN THE DESERT

12. (C) Embaffs December 10 visited the Iraqi police training center one hour outside Amman, to observe progress in the program. 486 Iraqi trainees arrived November 29 via milair from Baghdad for an eight-week basic police course at the invitation of the Jordanian government. The training is conducted by U.S., British, and other third country trainers, assisted by Jordanian and Iraqi police. A group from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police was in Jordan this week to confirm plans to send 20 additional trainers to Jordan by January 11, and the Norwegian Ambassador said that Norway, too, is likely to deploy a small number of trainers early in the new year.

13. (C) Rin Shadforth, a British police officer who is deputy director of the training center, said the instructors use a slightly modified version of the basic police course taught in Kosovo. Classes are taught in English, with consecutive Arabic translation. Shadforth said the center will produce a large number of police with basic training, but will not fill the need for supervisory training (which he said would be done separately at the police training facility in Basra). The teaching staff is trying to identify likely candidates for further leadership training.

AN IRAQI MELTING POT

14. (C) According to the teaching staff at the center, the Iraqi police trainees come from all over Iraq. Despite concerns that the group might break into regional, ethnic, or religious factions, trainers report that the group has been cohesive. The trainees were actually recruited two years ago under the previous regime, and were in the Saddam regime police training pipeline at the war's outbreak. This group of 486 (19 of whom will be sent back to Iraq because they are under the age of 18) will be followed by another five hundred in January. While there are no women in the first class, eight females have been identified for a future class, and the facility is prepared to accommodate women. Originally 1,000 recruits were scheduled to arrive in January, but half of these will now complete their training in Iraq instead. By February the center expects to receive 1,500 trainees per month, so that at any one time there will be 3,000 recruits in training. The cycle will continue until 32,000 Iraqi police have been trained.

15. (C) Conditions at the training site, which did not exist two months ago, are spartan. However, dormitories, dining halls, and classrooms are all functional. (The UK training staff is being housed in apartments in Amman, although most U.S. contract trainers are residing at the separate trainers' residence facility in the nearby town of Jawa, provided by Jordan's Public Security Directorate.) Construction of a practice motorway and a firing range is still underway; the center hopes to complete the firing range soon. There are no plans for a simulated urban site for tactical training, along the lines of "Hogan's Alley" at Quantico. Most of the training at this point is basic theory and drills. State/DS is supplying the weapons for the training center.

16. (SBU) Ann Bertucci, a Dyncorps employee who is spokeswoman for the center, said the GOJ plans to organize an inauguration ceremony for the training center later this month. Post is assisting with plans for the event.

COMMENT

17. (C) The GOJ and the training staff understand the importance of this effort to future stability in Iraq. While admittedly off to a slow start -- particularly on construction of the facilities that will be needed to house as many as 3,000 trainees -- the police training center is up and running, and will now expand quickly. The international response has also been positive, with six nations already committing trainers: Jordan, Iraq, U.S., UK, and Austria, with a definitive promise from Canada. Slovenia, Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Poland, Estonia, Finland, Norway and Sweden have also expressed a willingness to send trainers.

18. (U) CPA Baghdad minimize considered.

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HALE